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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/543,844	04/05/2000	Toshitsugo Ono	P00,0251	6442

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EXAMINER

FERGUSON, LAWRENCE D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1774

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2003

16

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AS-16

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/543,844

Applicant(s)

ONO ET AL.

Examiner

Lawrence D Ferguson

Art Unit

1774

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,5 and 8-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,5 and 8-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to the amendment mailed May 27, 2003.

Claims 6 and 7 were cancelled and claims 1 and 23 were amended, rendering claims 1,2,4,5 and 8-28 currently pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a)

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-9, 11, 14-16 and 18-19, 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo et al. (U.S. 5,536,425) in view of Aratani et al (U.S. 6,063,468).

4. Konda teaches recording mediums which comprise non-magnetic support and a layer formed on the support on the surface having a coefficient of friction (column 1, lines 16-22), Kondo discloses perfluoropolyether derivatives for recording mediums (column 1, lines 62-64). Konda discloses the formula $R-COO-R1-N+R2R3R4$ where R, R2, R3 and R4 represents H or a hydrocarbon group having from 6 to 22 carbon atoms (column 2, lines 8-17) as a derivative used in recording mediums. Konda discloses a top coat layer (column 2, line 58) and non-magnetic supports including ceramic and glass

Art Unit: 1774

substrates (column 8, lines 35-41) which constitutes a light transmitting layer that can be illuminated by light along with resin binders (column 8, lines 51-59) including organic materials. Konda discloses a non-magnetic support made by sputtering (column 9, lines 9-10) with a coat layer formed on the support (column 9, lines 14-15). Konda discloses a coefficient of friction measurement (column 11, lines 55-56). In claim 21, 'a skew correcting member formed on a second of said two major surfaces of said support is a product by process claim limitation. Additionally, in claim 21, 'said skew correcting member is formed by coating and curing a UV curable resin' is a product by process claim limitation. "Even though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." In re Thorpe, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966. A dynamic frictional coefficient equal to 0.3 or less and a skew margin less than $84.115(\lambda/NA^3/t)$ includes 0. Konda does not disclose the precise thicknesses, thickness variation, hardness, surface resistance, surface tension or moisture absorption.

Aratani teaches an optical recording medium with a light transmissive layer and recording portion (column 6, lines 39-47) teaching a varying skew member (column 2, lines 23-30 and column 10, line 61). Aratani teaches a pencil hardness of at least 'H' (column 4, lines 37-38) where the light transmissive layer is formed of polycarbonate with a thickness of 100 micrometers (column 7, lines 14-15). The reference teaches

Art Unit: 1774

surface resistance of 10^{12} - 10^{13} μ (column 7, line 42 and column 12, lines 24-25) and thickness range as in claim 4 (column 1, lines 25-30). Aratani teaches forming the surface layer with SiN by sputtering and having a coefficient of friction less than or equal to 0.3 (column 11, lines 34-50) having a surface tension (column 12, line 11) and water absorption (column 12, lines 34-37). Konda and Aratani are analogous art because they are from the same field of optical recording mediums. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the varying skew member in the optical recording medium of Konda because Aratani teaches it can be corrected by reducing the thickness of the light transmitting layer (column 2, lines 29-30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the surface tension and pencil hardness of at least 'H' to increase durability of the optical recording medium. Additionally, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the water absorption because Aratani teaches it helps reduce corrosion of the recording layer (column 12, lines 31-34).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a)

5. Claims 10, 12-13, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo et al. (U.S. 5,536,425) in view of Aratani et al (U.S. 6,063,468) further in view of Akutsu (U.S. 5,864,357).
6. Konda in view of Aratani is relied upon for claims 1-2, 4-9, 11, 14-16 and 18-19, 21-22, 24-28. Konda does not disclose inorganic material made of SiO_x , said surface

Art Unit: 1774

layer formed of an electrically conductive material consisting of indium oxide or tin oxide or In or Sn.

Akutsu teaches a light transmitting electrically conductive layer (column 2, lines 49-50) consisting of SnO_2 , In_2O_3 (column 4, lines 47-49) and silicon nitride and silicon carbide (column 5, lines 59-60) used in a recording material (column 7, line 21). Akutsu teaches using a spray coating method (column 4, line 52).

All of the prior art are analogous art because they are from the same field of recording media. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the light transmitting electrically conductive layer consisting of SnO_2 , In_2O_3 , silicon nitride and silicon carbide in the recording medium of Konda because Akutsu teaches that these components are used to increase the resistivity and hardness of the recording medium.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's amendments in regards to 35 USC 112, second paragraph have overcome the rejection of claims 5 and 23 based on Applicant's arguments.

Applicant's arguments of rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo et al. (U.S. 5,536,425) in view of Aratani et al (U.S. 6,063,468) and further in view of Akutsu (U.S. 5,864,357) have been considered but are unpersuasive. Applicant argues neither Kondo nor Aratani teaches an optical recording medium wherein a surface resistance of that side of the optical recording medium having an

Art Unit: 1774

amine salt not larger than $10^{13}\mu$ or a dynamic coefficient not higher than 0.3, as recited in amended claim 1 and in claim 28. Examiner is not persuaded by this argument because Aratani teaches forming the surface layer with SiN by sputtering and having a coefficient of friction less than or equal to 0.3 (column 11, lines 34-50) having a surface tension (column 12, line 11) and water absorption (column 12, lines 34-37), where the surface resistance of 10^{12} - $10^{13}\mu$ (column 7, line 42 and column 12, lines 24-25). Applicant reiterates the dynamic frictional coefficient on the surface of the surface layer is of equal to 0.3 or less to prevent the surface of the optical disc from being damaged if it is slidingly contacted with the objective lens. This is held to be an intended use of the dynamic frictional coefficient. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963). Applicant additionally states the resistance of the surface of the optical disc is not higher than $10^{13}\mu$, such that a sufficient anti-electrification effect can be obtained, which is held to be intended use. Intended use is given little patentable weight. Applicant argues since claims 2,4,5,8,9,11,14-16,18-19,21-22 and 24-27 depend from claim 1 they are also patentably distinguishable over either the individual or the combination of the Kondo et al. and Aratani et al. references. Because Kondo and Aratani rejections over claim 1 have been

maintained, reasons of record for the rejection of claims 2,4,5,8,9,11,14-16,18-19,21-22 and 24-27 are also maintained. Applicant further argues the addition of the Akutsu reference does not make up for the deficiencies in Kondo et al and Aratani et al. Because Kondo in view of Aratani has been maintained, the rejection of Kondo et al. (U.S. 5,536,425) in view of Aratani et al (U.S. 6,063,468) further in view of Akutsu (U.S. 5,864,357) has also been maintained for reasons of record.

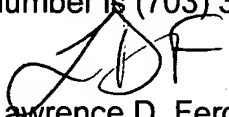
8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lawrence Ferguson whose telephone number is (703) 305-9978. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on (703) 308-0449. Please allow the examiner twenty-four hours to return your call.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2351.


Lawrence D. Ferguson
Examiner
Art Unit 1774

CYNTHIA H. KELLY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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